



Executive Policy

Chapter 1: Executive Policy and Procedure

Policy 1-22

Resource Contact: Quality Assurance Officer

Established:

January 23, 1990

References: Chapter 173-50 WAC

Revisions Effective: April 27, 2004

Requiring Use of Accredited Environmental Laboratories

Purpose: To assure that laboratories performing environmental analyses are capable of providing accurate and defensible data for Ecology's use in making decisions concerning the environment.

Application: This policy applies whenever an Ecology employee orders environmental data from a laboratory providing environmental analytical services.

1. Lab Accreditation Section Oversees the Accreditation Program.

The Lab Accreditation Section of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Program is responsible for determining whether a laboratory meets accreditation standards established in Chapter 173-50 Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Any laboratory, within or outside the state, may apply for accreditation. The Lab Accreditation Section will maintain a list of currently accredited labs and the analytical parameters and methods for which each lab is accredited. Ecology employees and other interested parties may request this information from the Lab Accreditation Section. It is also available by clicking [here](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/lablist.htm) (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/lablist.htm>).

2. Managers Use Accredited Laboratories.

Ecology employees responsible for ordering lab services through regulations, permits, or contractual agreements must ensure that laboratories performing these environmental analyses are accredited by the Lab Accreditation Section. Applicable environmental data include, but are not limited to, results from analysis of water, sediment, sludge, air, soil, plant and animal tissue, and hazardous waste analyzed in a laboratory. Applicable analyses include chemical, physical, biological, microbiological, radiological, or other scientific determinations that provide recorded qualitative and/or quantitative results derived from laboratory analyses.

3. Exceptions Require Approval of the Environmental Assessment Program Manager.

The requirement to use accredited laboratories may be waived only by the EA Program Manager or by the agency Deputy Director. A program or section manager is to consult with the agency Quality Assurance Officer, who reviews the request to deviate from this policy and makes a recommendation to the EA Program Manager, or Deputy Director if the EA Program Manager is unavailable. The EA Program Manager or Deputy Director communicates to the Quality Assurance Officer and requesting manager the decision to either approve or disapprove the request.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Hoffman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda Hoffman
Director